

energy provided by the electric utility exceeds a ratable limit that is equal to a proxy for load growth on the electric utility, based on—

“(I) the total quantity of energy sold by each affected agency, corporation, or unit of the electric utility during calendar year 2006; and

“(II) a 3-percent compounded annual growth rate.

“(B) NOTICE PROVIDED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A distributor described in paragraph (2) that provided a notice described in paragraph (2)(B) by December 31, 2006, may—

“(I) construct, own, and operate any generation facility, individually or jointly with another distributor;

“(II) receive from any electric utility described in paragraph (1) partial requirements services;

“(III) receive from any electric utility described in paragraph (1) transmission services that are sufficient to meet all electric energy requirements of the distributor, regardless of whether an applicable contract, or any portion of such a contract, has been terminated under this section; and

“(IV) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, elect to rescind the notice of termination of the distributor without the imposition of a reintegration fee or any similar fee.

“(i) TREATMENT.—On an election by a distributor under clause (i)(IV), the distributor shall be entitled to all rights and benefits of a distributor described in subparagraph (A).

“(5) RIGHT TO RETAIN ACCESS TO SERVICES.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) AFFECTED DISTRIBUTOR.—The term ‘affected distributor’ means a distributor that receives any electric service or power from at least 2 generators.

“(ii) GENERATOR.—The term ‘generator’ means an entity referred to in any of subparagraphs (A) through (E) of subsection (i)(1).

“(B) RETENTION OF SERVICES.—An affected distributor may elect to retain any electric service or power provided by a generator, regardless of whether an applicable contract, or any portion of such a contract, has been terminated under this section.

“(C) EFFECT OF NOTICE OF TERMINATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The provision or execution by an affected distributor of a notice of termination described in paragraph (2)(B) with 1 generator shall not affect the quantity of electric service or power provided to the affected distributor by another generator.

“(ii) PRICE.—The price of electric services or power provided to an affected distributor described in clause (i) shall be equal to the price charged by the applicable generator for the provision of similar services or power to a distributor that did not provide a notice described in paragraph (2)(B).

“(D) TRANSMISSION SERVICE.—On an election by an affected distributor under subparagraph (B) to retain an electric service or power, the affected distributor shall be entitled to receive from a generator transmission service to 1 or more delivery points of the affected distributor, as determined by the affected distributor, regardless of whether an applicable contract, or any portion of such a contract, has been terminated under this section.”

SEC. 4. STUDY OF PRIVATIZATION OF TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the costs, benefits, and other effects of privatizing the Tennessee Valley Authority.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall

submit to Congress a report that describes the results of the study conducted under this section.

SEC. 5. STUDY OF DEBT LEVEL OF TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the financial structure of, and the amount of debt held by, the Tennessee Valley Authority, which (as of February 1, 2007) is approximately \$25,000,000,000.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that describes the results of the study conducted under this section.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing entitled “Medicare Doctors Who Cheat on Their Taxes and What Should Be Done About It.”

This is the fourth hearing to result from a three year investigation conducted by the Subcommittee into Federal contractors that provide goods or services to the Federal Government, but fail to pay their taxes. A 2004 hearing determined that 27,000 contractors with the Department of Defense had a tax debt totaling roughly \$3 billion. A 2005 hearing determined that 33,000 contractors doing business with civilian Federal agencies had unpaid taxes totaling \$3.3 billion.

In addition to examining contractors for DOD and civilian agencies, the Subcommittee has examined similar misconduct by contractors for the General Services Administration (GSA). A Subcommittee hearing in March 2006 determined that 3,800 GSA contractors collectively owed \$1.4 billion in unpaid taxes.

The upcoming March 20th hearing will further explore the problem, focusing specifically on Medicare physicians and related suppliers that receive substantial income from the Federal Government but do not pay the taxes that they owe.

Witnesses for the upcoming hearing will include representatives from the Government Accountability Office, the Internal Revenue Service, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, as well as the Financial Management Service. A final witness list will be available on Friday, March 16, 2007.

The Subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise J. Bean, of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at 224-3721.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public

that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nomination of Stephen Jeffrey Isakowitz, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Energy.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224-6836.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at 3 p.m. to hold a nominations hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and House Committee on Education and Labor be authorized to meet for a joint hearing on the No Child Left Behind Act during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 10 a.m. in room 2175 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on “Judicial Nominations” on Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 10 a.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 226.

Witness List:

Panel I: The Honorable THAD COCHRAN, United States Senator, R-MS and The Honorable TRENT LOTT, United States Senator, R-MS.

Panel II: Halil Suleyman Ozerden to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi; Benjamin Hale Settle to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Washington; and Frederick J. Kapala to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select